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Heron – The Brown Room

(Hut) UK release date: 18 March 2002

by [Alex Routledge](#)
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Heron's debut album is a self-produced majestic effort, blending American country, '60s rock, psychedelia and electronica. An eclectic mix of beats and melodies, with influences ranging from **Primal Scream** and **Delakota** to **Aphex Twin** sees the musician dabbling with electronics and new sounds and mixing these with traditional songwriting.



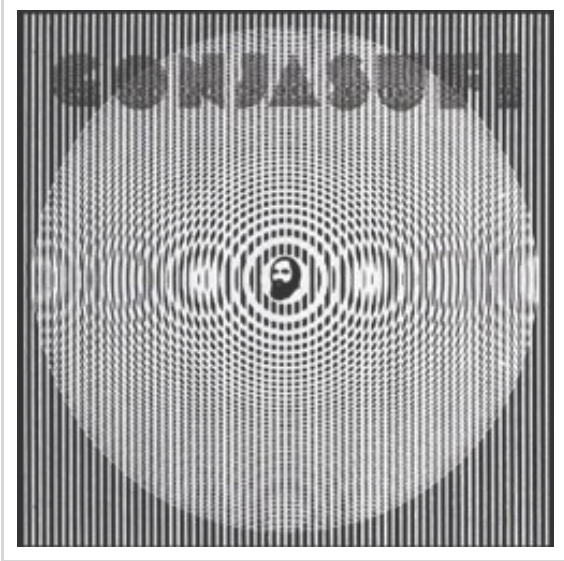
Starting with the electro-funk of J-Funk, Heron takes us through the country piano balladry of I Want 2 Know, a theme revisited on Jukebox Saloon. The meandering, memorable rhythms flow sweetly over the lo-fi production and the result is a folk-tinged, touching song. The acoustic guitar psychedelia of We Get High offers an alternative, modern take on some of **The Beatles**' later, more narcotic offerings, whilst Keyboard Song is an innovative remaking of some of **Cass Browne**'s work with Delakota.

The American rock/electronica crossover on Umbrella, Heron's debut single, is both powerful and dramatic, as he mixes disparate beats and laid-back melodies to great effect. Meanwhile the recurring electro theme reemerges on Cracked Analogue as beats and electronics compete over the unusual soundscapes, an unlikely blend of Primal Scream and **Beck**. I'll B Your Alibi makes for uneasy listening in some parts as high-tenor vocals merge with noise rock influences. Although one of the less inspirational tracks on offer, it shows a wide variety of influences and its unpredictability and sweeping changes are its saving grace.

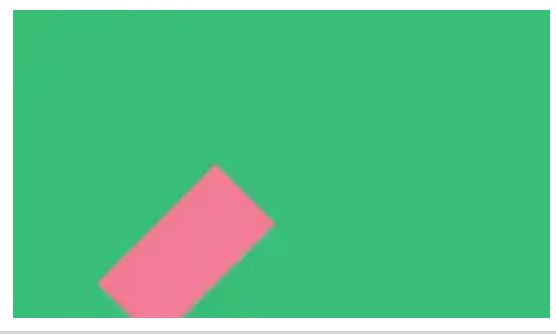
The album's closer is ballad Every Little Thing, a whispery, piano lament and a fitting finale to the album. The most memorable track on the album, its minimal but awe-inspiring melodies are a stroke of genius.

'The Brown Room' is an interesting album, as inspiring as it is innovative. Heron mixes a plethora of influences from the last four decades, whilst still conjuring up his own magical sound. His album is unlikely to change your life, but it is nevertheless a work of beauty and intrigue.

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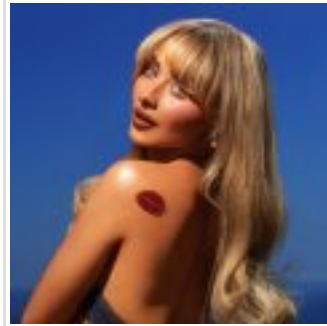
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